

BECOMING A CHANGE AGENT

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Do you have a passion to be like Jesus? Well if you've been born again and washed in the Blood then you should—it's part of covenant, to become *Christ like*. And fortunately for us we have the Holy Spirit whose duty is to help conform us to the image of Jesus but we must assist Him—He cannot do it without our help and our consent because we are free moral beings.

And if you will make the decision to be more like Jesus every single day then that means you are on your way to becoming a *change agent*. You see Jesus was a Change Agent! Every single place He went things changed for the better! People changed, situations—many that appeared hopeless—changed. Why we see in the Gospels that even the weather changed when Jesus was present.

Jesus is Lord over the earth and He defeated Satan but Satan is not dead yet and he still controls the kingdoms of this world through his

Dark Kingdom. That needs to change and it's only through you that it will change. Jesus asked us to pray every single day, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven ..." Jesus came to take back the earth from Satan and return it to the Father. He was and is the *ultimate* change agent but the job is not done. There are still drugs, prostitution, abortions, human trafficking and other evils going on in your community that need to be changed and brought into alignment with the will of God. That means the Lord needs *you* to be a change agent every single day. This is one of the main assignments of the Church but the Church has neglected it because it is not an easy or pleasant task—to enter into spiritual warfare every day to destroy the works of the devil but it is our responsibility. Nobody else save the Church is going to do it because the world and world systems are part of the problem.

In July, 2012, I wrote a teaching article that is archived on our website and you should go back and read it. The title is "*Mrs. Smith and Other Inconvenient Truths About the Modern Church.*" After you have read it then come back to this current teaching article.

Forty years ago I made a list from the Scriptures of ways that the Lord speaks to us and I found 23 ways. I'm sure there are many more but that's how many I found at that time. One of those ways is through dreams and/or visions. The Bible defines a dream from the Lord—what we might call a prophetic dream—as a "night vision." The Lord speaks to me this way a lot and sometimes through open visions. Sometimes He wakes me up in the middle of the night and gives me an open vision instead of just communicating through the night vision.

Last night He gave me a night vision similar to thousands that I've had over the years where I am in a certain church. Now this was not a church that I knew. Almost every single time that I minister in a particular church the Lord will take me there in the Spirit once or twice before I ever go to that church to minister—He does this to show

me the problems in that church He wants to deal with by sending me there as a change agent. As we learn from the Scriptures, this is normally something God does with the office of prophet—He sends a Jonah or an Elijah with a message and often *signs* to authenticate the message delivered. Why? Because the Lord wants to change that church or group of people.

But the night vision I had last night involved me just being in the congregation and witnessing a spiritual phenomenon. This normally occurs when the Lord wants to show me a general problem in all churches. Often, like last night, it's a problem I already know exists but He shows me another facet of it or how widespread it is. When I awoke at 3:30 and thought on the night vision then Scriptures came to my mind as well as the previous article about Mrs. Smith that I referred to.

The church I was in had about 500 people so it was not particularly small but not large either. I was not preaching but rather just sitting in the congregation and because of what occurred in the service a person at the front needed ministry. I made the statement out loud, "It's your responsibility to do something about that" (i.e., minister to the person in need). Immediately all those around me said, "It's not my responsibility." Then others from all over the church said the same thing; they were very vocal and adamant that it was not their responsibility to minister to this person. About 80% of the church spoke up and said, "It's not my responsibility," while the silent 20% said nothing nor did they get up to minister to the person in need.

I felt very strong opposition in my spirit from these folks to what I had said and I also began to see the religious spirit manifesting through the eyes of many. For some reason I had left my Bible in the car so I went out to get it and when I returned this woman came over to me and stood next to me and began to manifest a religious spirit out loud by quoting 2 Cor. 11:4, "And no wonder, for even Satan disguises

himself as an angel of light.” Religious spirits operate in all religions on the earth today. Unless you have a good gift of discerning of spirits you probably won’t recognize them. The spirit of Antichrist is a religious spirit that operates in the churches and this spirit will become more and more widespread as we approach the time when the man, the Antichrist, will be revealed. This is the only spirit that calls on the Name of Jesus when you cast it out. Nearly always when religious spirits manifest in a church or through a person who is or claims to be a Christian they will quote Scripture; very often they are *legalists*.

In their morning devotional, Evie has been teaching our two kids about the Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is the Fruit of the Spirit by which you can measure how much you look like Jesus and the Gifts of the Spirit are for ministry to others and allow you to minister supernaturally just like Jesus did through the Agent of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus prophesied that near the end of time, because of “the increase in lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold” (Mt. 24:12). And there can be no doubt that we are living in that time. Even in most church bodies there is little true love—it’s mostly ritual and a façade.

But as I was meditating on the prophetic dream last night, Jesus reminded me of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10. Probably 75% of the world knows this testimony from Scripture and the fact that the *religious* people of the covenant—a priest and a Levite—walked on by the person in need when they should have done something to help him. It was a Samaritan who showed mercy to him and assisted him. The fact that he was a Samaritan would not have been lost on the Lawyer and other religious leaders that Jesus was speaking to with this testimony because the Jews held a *vehement* hatred for Samaritans. Yet this was the person who demonstrated that he was a neighbor by showing mercy. I’ve seen much of the same thing in the Church today. A person we know that was in a Christian ministry organization had a

severe stroke a few years back and yet the organization she was a part of did absolutely nothing to help her out financially or spiritually. Is this not what it means to “be wounded in the house of my friends?” At that time the Lord witnessed very strongly to me about this same illustration of the Good Samaritan. How much more should we in the Church not take care of our own?

There were two trees in the Garden of Eden; one of them was the Tree of Life. The Lord showed me many years ago that the Tree of Life was the Word. Of course He is the Word as well but to obey Mt. 4:4 and Lk. 4:4 we must partake of the Word every single day for our spirits to grow, otherwise they will become emaciated just like your physical body would do if you didn't eat any food.

But He also showed me that the Tree of Life in the world today is the Church—at least it's supposed to be! The Body of Christ, the Church, is where the Gentile masses of the world should be able to come to partake of life—for their physical, soulish and spiritual needs. Yet most churches consume any fruit from their tree inwardly and selfishly upon themselves. Like the priest and the Levite, they are too busy and too selfish to help the poor and weak who come to the Tree for sustenance. We have largely forgotten about the Great Commission and truly for most our love has grown “cold.”

In John 4 we read about another Samaritan—a woman with whom Jesus has a dialogue that changes her life. Remember, He was and is a “change agent.” Through the spiritual Gift of Word of Knowledge Jesus shares some personal facts about this woman that only God would know. This causes her to believe in Him as the Messiah as well as many others from her community. Jesus spoke to her about “living water.” Only the Church—the agent of the Lord Jesus on the earth today—is able to impart “living water” to a sin-sick, crying, dying world that so desperately needs Jesus, the Bread of Life. But if you don't speak the Word to them they won't receive. If you don't cast out

demons, there's nobody else who has the authority to do it and hence people won't be delivered. If you don't heal the sick, who will? If you don't perform miraculous works of power, who will?

Remember, Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

And you will notice that Jesus did not say "maybe"; He said if you do these things you "shall" see the results of the Lord and His Spirit working through you. Go and do likewise. Be a "change agent" for your community every single day.

MARANATHA